

**Buckley
Elementary
School**

Bobcat News

A Great Place
to Grow and
Explore

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Principal's Corner

November 2014

The school year is moving forward very quickly here at Buckley School! With the leaves changing colors, it is very obvious that winter is right around the corner. In two months, we have been very busy. As a highlight, we have been conducting benchmark assessments that will provide valuable information and data on how best to provide instruction to our students, and busy with the many **PTA** events here at school including the back to school cook out and recently the book bingo night.

It is with much excitement that I let the Buckley School Community know that on **November 20th from 6:00-7:30 p.m.**, we will celebrate Buckley School's 60th anniversary! Buckley School will open its doors to all former and current staff members and alumni to take a tour of Buckley School and to open our newly renovated Media Center. This evening is a celebration of Buckley School and the community. We have sent out information to local newspapers, notified as many past staff members as possible and, I have notified Manchester Public Schools. Please join us for this evening. Please help us notify as many people as possible. More information will be forthcoming in the very near future.

I would like to bring to your attention that we are in the final stages completing our School Improvement Plan. This has been a work in progress for the past few months. Please know that our School Leadership Team has been working on it as well as the entire staff. Please know that I will share it in one of our future newsletters, post it on our school website and post it in our breezeway of our main entrance.

Attached to this newsletter is our Save the Date flyer for our Barnes and Noble Night. Please note the date of December 8th. This is a wonderful night of music and books at the Manchester Barnes and Noble. Please join us for this evening.

In addition to the above, please note that you will be receiving information regarding the parent/teacher conferences that will take place December 2nd – 4th. Please note that we had signups for days and times during the September Open House. I anticipate the confirmation letters to be sent to families during the week of November 17th.

Bobcat Central

250 Vernon Street
Manchester, CT
06042

Phone:
(860)647-3302
Fax:
(860)647-5007
Illness:
(860)647-3344
Nurse:
(860)647-3303



Please note that I am planning to have a common core/curriculum evening as I did last school year. The purpose of this is to provide valuable information regarding the common core and expectations as well as to provide information our curriculum. I anticipate this evening taking place in the early winter. Please look for information that I will send home in the near future. In addition, I am also planning a series of "Coffee with the Principal"! The purpose of this is to meet with parents/guardians and discuss important topics including how to be involved in school, homework and answer questions that you may have. Please look for a flyer in the near future as well!

For your convenience, **I have outlined our November activities that will take place here at Buckley.**

November Calendar

- November 4th Election Day, **No School**-Professional Development for Staff
- November 5th Picture re-take Day!
- November 7th **PTA Event: Blue tie Auction @ 6:30!**
- November 11th Veteran's Day, No School
- November 13th **PTA Meeting @ 6:30**
- November 26th 1:17 Dismissal
- November 27th, 28th No School Thanksgiving Break

December Calendar

- December 1-5th Book Fair
- December 2-4th Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences
- December 8th Barnes and Noble Night
- December 16th Winter Concert
- December 19th Holiday Store

I wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving Break. I hope you spend quality time with your family and friends!

Fondly,
Matthew Daly





Manchester Public Schools

Buckley Elementary School

250 Vernon Street

Manchester, CT 06042

www.mpspride.org

Mr. Matthew Daly,

Principal

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A Great Place to Grow and Explore

October 24, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardians,

As you know, we have specific procedures to dropping off and picking up your child. The purpose of this letter is to remind everyone of these procedures and alert you to a necessary change. In addition, I have also provided you with a reminder of our procedures for visiting Buckley.

In order to alleviate some traffic issues in the front, I suggest that, if your child is in grades 3-5, utilize the back parking lot via Barry Road for both drop-offs and pick-ups. As a guide for the back parking lot area off Barry Road, please follow the protocol outlined below:

Please park on the right hand side. When entering the parking lot, please pull all the way down. After picking up your child, please follow the parking lot and make a loop to turn around and exit the parking lot. Please drive slowly and watch for children.

If your child is in grades K-2, I am asking that you utilize the front of the building specifically, the circle for drop-off and pick-up. Please remember not to double park your car in the circle during the morning or afternoon. Due to an increase in the number of parents/guardians picking their child up in this circle, **I am asking that if there are no spots available, please do not continue to move around the circle as this is dangerous with students getting into cars.** Instead, please use the parking lot in the back of the building or off Barry Road. Please continue to use the protocol outlined below:

If you are using the circle to drop off your child, please park on the right hand side of the circle.

Please **DO NOT** stop in the middle of the circle to drop-off your child. This creates a traffic jam and is unsafe for our children. Also, please do not park on the inside of the circle.

Please walk your children to and from the building after parking your car.

Please drive slowly and watch for children.

In our continued effort to provide a structured and safe environment here at Buckley, please first stop by the main office when visiting your child's classroom, volunteering your time or attending an event.

Please sign in at the main office and we will provide you with a Visitor Sticker.

Also, if you are picking up your child early or are changing the normal routine with respect to drop-off/pick-up, please write a note to your child's teacher and the main office. This will insure that we have the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding your child.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Daly
Principal

Pride in Excellence



Buckley Elementary School



MONTH of NOVEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3 A Day	4 NO SCHOOL ELECTION DAY	5 B Day Picture Retake Day	6 C Day	7 A Day Blue Tie Auction 6:30pm	8
9	10 B Day	11 NO SCHOOL VETERAN'S DAY	12 C Day	13 A Day PTA Mtg 6:30pm	14 B Day Pep Rally 2:30	15
16	17 C Day Lyman Orchard Pie delivery	18 A Day	19 B Day	20 C Day	21 A Day Fun Friday 2:30	22
23	24 B Day	25 C Day	26 A Day 1:17 DISMISSAL	27 Happy Thanksgiving	28 NO SCHOOL	29
30						

Kindergarten

October was a very busy month for us in kindergarten, we continued to get used to the rules and routines of kindergarten, and focused on what is expected at our academic centers. In math, we have been working on our numbers 1-12, and learning all different ways to show these numbers. We have also been working on recognizing our color words. In Language Arts, we have continued to learn many letters and sounds. We have also been identifying characters and setting in the stories we read. We are continuing to learn various sight words and focusing on our rhyming words and phonemic awareness skills. Please continue to practice letter identification and letter sounds with your child as well as writing numbers 1-12. In writing, we are working on drawing pictures to represent what we want to say, and focusing on labeling our pictures the best we can by sounding out the letter sounds we hear in the words. Some highlights of this month included a field trip to Foster Farm and learning all about Fire safety with a school wide assembly.

In November, we will focus on families and family traditions as well as scarecrows and pumpkins. In math, we will work on teen numbers and learning all different ways to show these numbers. In Language Arts, we will continue to learn more letters and letter sounds as well as more sight words. In writing, we will continue to focus on labeling pictures, and learning what makes a sentence and different punctuation marks. We look forward to another exciting month of learning!

Mrs. Hoffman and Miss Lavallee

First Grade

Fantastic First Grade

October was an amazing month! We learned about fire safety in the stories we read, the conversations we had, and our visit from the local firefighters. The children have been growing in their ability to recognize and use a growing number of sight words in both their reading and writing! They have been learning about the relationship between addition and subtraction.

In November we look forward to learning about voting, Veteran's Day, and the friendship between the Pilgrims and Native Americans as they celebrated the first Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Bourcier, Miss Patrylak, Ms. Seaha



Second Grade

This fall season, the second graders have been practicing their before, during, and after reading strategies through predicting and answering questions such as who, what, where, and when. We will be focusing this month to identify the problem and solution within a text (conflict/resolution). Students will also be practicing their story mapping!

In writer's workshop, the students have been working diligently to add elaboration and details into their small moment stories! This month, the students will be learning to revise and edit their writing in preparation for publishing their writing pieces!

In math, we have been working on place value concepts (hundreds, tens, and ones). Through this, the students have been representing numbers in various ways including standard, expanded, model, and written forms. Be sure to ask your child to share their knowledge of this with you!

We are so proud of the progress our students have been making thus far and look forward to a wonderful November!

Mrs. Strickland, Miss Adams

Third Grade

We hope that your Fall is going well! Please remember to have your child read and fill out their reading logs every night. We can also use help with math fact fluency. The district is specifically requiring us to track math fluency, so if your child could practice with flash cards or on the computer, mathfactmonster.com for even five minutes a day, that would be a huge help and we would greatly appreciate it.

We are moving into the world of multiplication and division. If you would like more practice for your child, you can always go to www.commoncoresheets.com. Another great resource for review of what we are teaching is www.learnzillion.com. The children can watch videos to remind themselves of strategies we have taught or learn something new on their own.

In Writing and Reading we will be delving into the land of non-fiction. We will be exploring text features like Table of Contents, Index, Glossary, Real Pictures, diagrams, bold words, etc. We will also be researching and writing reports. The children really love reading the non-fiction and you can encourage them at home by reading a baseball article in the JI, or by having them look up an answer to a question they had on the computer (Mrs. Edwards, why do we have winter?)

Have a Great Thanksgiving! There is a great mini experience on the Plymouth Plantation website for the children to learn all about Thanksgiving and the Native Americans.

Mr. Sweetland, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Murphy

Fourth Grade

This month in fourth grade the focus will be on nonfiction. Our main topics will include Ecosystems and Native Americans. It will be all nonfiction and informational writing during our Language Arts time. In the afternoon the children will be doing lots of multi digit computation as they work their way through the second math unit. They will use the strategies they learned in the first unit to help them solve multistep word problems. This second unit of study calls for lots of algebraic thinking. The children will also learn factors and multiples to 100. We will be giving thanks for the support you provide and for your wonderful children!

Ms. Godbout, Mrs. Hoke, Ms. Marocchini



Fifth Grade

Like the earth, the moon, and the stars, we here in the fifth grade are spinning right along. We have settled nicely into our weekly routine. The students are working hard and meeting the challenges of the fifth grade curriculum.

Please make sure your fifth grader is reading for at least 25 minutes everyday. Building up “reading stamina” is very important at this grade level. It may be helpful to check the text to make sure it is not too difficult or too easy, and that the book is of a high interest level.

Lastly, Thanks so much to all of you who accompanied us to the West Hartford Science Museum. Your assistance was greatly appreciated. So brave being around 60 ten and eleven year olds on Halloween.....Yikes!

Miss Brahm, Mrs. Jodoin, Mrs. Adinolfi



MAP News

Last month our theme was fall. We enjoyed looking at the colored leaves on the trees during recess. We read Clifford's First Autumn by Norman Bridwell and Sixteen Runaway Pumpkins by Diane Ochiltree. On the iPad, we read It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown by Charles M. Schulz. It is an interactive app in which you can virtually carve a jack o'lantern and put a costume on a Peanut's character.

This month, our theme will be Thanksgiving. We will talk about what we are thankful for this year.
Mrs. Rodowicz

Literacy Corner

Hi! I'm Mrs. O'Malley and I'm the Literacy Coach at Buckley School. In my role as Literacy Coach, I will be working with teachers to develop and strengthen reading and writing instruction throughout the building.

This year in Manchester, we are continuing to focus on writing as we adopt a Writer's Workshop model of writing instruction. We are looking forward to deepening our understanding of the Workshop model as we strive to create confident, effective writers at all grade levels.

Find out from your child what we mean by “small moment stories”, “playing a movie in your mind”, “writing long and strong”, and “show don't tell”. Ask them what they are working on as a writer!



Tammy O'Malley
Literacy Coach

Specials

P.E.

As October comes to an end, grades 3-5 are finishing up the physical fitness testing. In grade 3, the students are practicing the 4 areas of the fitness assessment that way they are prepared for the assessment when they enter the fourth grade. The fourth graders, when finished, will have their scores reported to the state.

Mr. Kolze has a student teacher from Eastern Connecticut State University, her name is Chelsea Downer. Ms. Downer will be with the Buckley family until mid December when she completes her student teaching. Ms. Downer completed her secondary student teaching at East Lyme Middle School.

The weather is beginning to get cold and with the cold weather comes snow and dressing warm. Please make sure that the children are prepared for PE when they are scheduled to come to gym. In order to provide a safe environment for the students, they need to wear sneakers. Unfortunately, if a student has boots on, they will not be able to participate in gym on that day. Proper footwear is very important.

Mr. Kolze and Miss Falkowski

ART

The art room has been very busy this month! In Kindergarten, we continue to practice routines and transitions while learning about tools and materials we use in the Art room. Our projects have consisted of a bowl of Apples, a scarecrow, and five little pumpkins. First graders have been learning about Mondrian and primary colors, as well as horizontal and vertical lines, and patterns. With the arrival of fall, we created a fall landscape with a fall tree. Our leaves were sponge printed with warm colors. Second graders are working on a collage of the city. Our goal is to create the feeling of a busy city through our use of a variety of paper, colors, and shapes. We recently finished drawing our pumpkins in 3rd grade and then went on to create our “golden” abstract trees. Both fourth and fifth graders are completing the Fire Prevention posters for the fire department. Each student tries to pass along a message about preventing fires by creating an effective poster with their words and illustrations. These look fabulous! Several examples of our projects have been hung in the hallway at Buckley. If you get the chance to visit, be sure to take a look!

~Mrs. Maloney, Art

MUSIC

October was a busy month for us with lots of changes. Mrs. Leonard left to have her baby and in her absence, I joined the Buckley Elementary community! Besides a new music teacher, we are in a new music room. Everyone is getting used to the new changes and the new space and we are still having lots of fun!

Kindergarteners have been keeping the beat as they become “Engine Engine #9” and practicing their four different voices in “This is My Voice.” - see if they can share all four with you! First graders have been keeping us awake with “Wake Up You Lazy Bones” and singing about a funny dog in “My Dog Rags.” Second graders are relearning an old favorite “Closet Key” but practicing our rhythms along with the song and learning a new game Ms. Petersen brought with her. Besides that, second graders are practicing keeping different beats or clapping new rhythms!

Third graders have been working on learning the note names and where to place those notes on the Treble Clef. As they continue to improve, they will test themselves with Mad Music Minute, and keep having fun with note name twister and the song “Sansa Kroma.” Fourth graders have just finished acting out the story of the Capulets and the Montagues through their dance to “Romeo and Juliet.” Then, we’re moving to a more “modern” time and learning the “Cup Song” rhythm and putting it with other songs. Fifth graders have been listening to and learning about traditional American folk music - many different songs and styles. We’re also

singing some of these songs and accompanying ourselves on ukuleles and xylophones. Soon enough, we will be working on winter concert music and we have a lot more in store for his fall!

Keep singing!! Miss Petersen



Nurse's Corner



Hello Bobcat Families,

The news headlines have certainly kept us on our toes with health concerns lately! Below are some great website resources that will answer some questions you might have regarding the respiratory illness EV-D68 as well as the rising concern surrounding Ebola:

<http://1.usa.gov/lo92Sdx>

<http://go.usa.gov/VyzA>

www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola

As with any concern regarding exposure to illness, I would like to encourage practicing with your child(ren) good handwashing techniques. To quote the CDC regarding handwashing:

"Handwashing is like a "do-it-yourself" vaccine—it involves five simple and effective steps (think Wet, Lather, Scrub, Rinse, Dry) you can take to reduce the spread of diarrheal and respiratory illness so you can stay healthy. Regular handwashing, particularly before and after certain activities, is one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and prevent the spread of germs to others." <http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/>

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Can I ask for your help? The school nurse's office is in need of boys/girls pants. If you have any boys/girls pants that no longer fit your child ranging in sizes 4-10, please send them in with your child to drop off at the nurse's office.

Stay well!

Carolyn Hussey, RN
Buckley School Nurse



Media Center

The month of November is my favorite because it is **Family Stories Month** and what better way to get ready for Thanksgiving than by sharing some books about families and starting to create a scrap-book of your own family.

There are several easy ways to start saving your family stories and each one can be introduced with a library book. A good way to introduce the topic is with Rona Downey's **Love is a Family**, which shows that although a family is made of many different people, the main ingredient is love. Dig out your family albums, wedding pictures and baby books and explain the photos.

You can also tape record or video family members about their favorite pictures and the memories they bring back. Try to remember funny tales such as those found in Cynthia Rylant's **The Day The Relatives Came** or Ann Martin's **Ten Kids, No Pets**. Create a "day in the life of" journal. Ask each family member to talk about their daily routine, from breakfast burritos to bedtime books.

Read what it's like when mom decides she needs **Five Minutes Peace** by Jill Murphy. Set a time and go through boxes in the attic, basement, closet, or shed. Don't clean, just explore. Discover the memories these treasures hold just as Michael did in Sharon Mathias' **The Hundred Penny Box**. After reading **Once There Were Giants** by Martin Waddell take a look at some old family movies and take notes on family members' thoughts.

Susan Roth's **Patchwork Tales** and Valerie Flournoy's **The Patchwork Quilt** remind us of the importance of interviewing grandparents. Ask them what it was like when they were young. What was life like without televisions, computers or microwaves? And don't forget to share special memories like Jeradine Nolen's **In My Mama's Kitchen** or Emily Arnold McCully's **New Baby**.

Twelve years ago, I took the time to capture my child's favorite Thanksgiving morning ritual – Stuffing the Turkey with Nana and now when we watch it on Thanksgiving; we know just how Nana made our lives special.

Now is the time for you to capture some special moments with your children. This is your "window of opportunity" -- do it before they become teenagers. Create a keepsake picture book for a birthday, holiday, or something as simple as making cookies. Ask your children to be the authors. Have them write about or narrate what is happening in each picture. These booklets will become treasures -- moments in time that you can share for years to come.

Happy November!!

Ms. Lake



Café Time

Hi from the Cafeteria!

Can you feel the crispness in the air? With the arrival of more seasonal weather, it is important to eat healthy and drink lots of water to keep colds and bugs to a minimum.

Here is a reminder for some, and maybe new to many families....if we have a delayed opening of a school day, that means no breakfast that day. The extra 2 hours at home should give everyone enough time to eat a healthy breakfast at home.



Also with the cold weather coming, we have many students coming through the line wearing their heavy coats, hats, mittens, and/or gloves. Please remember to take these items off and hang them on the coat racks that are provided in the cafeteria, and remember to take them with you when you leave!!

Breakfast starts at 8:30 and ends at 9:00. We are asking our students who walk, or get a ride from their family to school, to get here on time to get their breakfast. This helps everyone, especially if the school buses are having difficulty and running late.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to stop by or call us at 860-647-3306. We are available from 8:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m. or after lunch is served, from 1:45 pm—2:15 pm. You can also call the Office of Food and Nutrition at 860-647-3462. That office is open from 8 am—4 pm every school day.

Thank you and healthy eating everyone!!

Mrs. Dale Schuetz, Cafeteria Manager
Mrs. Julie Solito



Save the Date!



Buckley School Celebrates 60 Years!

November 20th

6:00-7:30



Save the Date!



www.clipart.dj · 13513

December 8, 2014
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Barnes & Noble Book Fair for Buckley School

Come enjoy books with your family, as you support this fundraiser,
and enjoy entertainment provided by our Buckley Talented Singers & Musicians!

We hope to see you on December 8, 2014
from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
at Barnes & Noble, Buckland Mall

Buckley School PTA News and Events

BuckleyElementaryPTA@gmail.com



Our next PTA meeting will be held
Thursday, Nov. 13, at 6:30 p.m.
in the Buckley cafeteria!



The PTA will hear from the first-grade teachers and their student representatives and find out what's going on in their classrooms. A representative from the Town Wide PTA will visit to talk about the Town Wide Science Fair, and we'll hear about plans for the Fall Book Fair and Holiday Store. Children are welcome!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Blue Tie Auction will be held Friday, Nov. 7, at 6:30 p.m. Come and bid on a variety of goods, services, and other special items. Then, look forward to the Fall Book Fair from Monday, Dec. 2, to Friday, Dec. 5. We'll round out 2014 with a Dine Out Night on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at Red Robin and the Holiday Store on Friday, Dec. 19.



FUNDRAISERS

Thank you to everyone who purchased Lyman Orchards pies; the fundraiser was a tremendous success! Pies come frozen and will be distributed Nov. 17 just in time for Thanksgiving! Look for a notice on the time for distribution.



AND THERE'S MORE...

The PTA plans to introduce a new product to our line of spirit wear. Look for special Alumni T-shirts at the Buckley School Celebrates 60 Years program on Nov. 20. Meanwhile pick up our other products at our various events!